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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-12 /023 W
---------- 095962
R 141615Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5297

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0063

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, EI
SUBJ: AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

REF: SORENSON-DAWKINS LETTER OF DEC 19; STATE 3698

EMBASSY AND ESPECIALLY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (UCD) DEEPLY APPRECIATE INFORMATION CABLED REFTEL. FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, IN THE ORDER OF THEIR PRIORITY, WHICH UCD HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY TO FORWARD VIA THE DEPARTMENT TO THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND FOR URGENT CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE FUND:

PROJECT 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIR OF AMERICAN STUDIES ($250,000): DESPITE THE CLOSE FAMILY, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LINKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRELAND, AMERICAN STUDIES HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, ON AN ACADEMIC LEVEL, IN IRELAND. THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, NO CHAIR IN AMERICAN HISTORY IN ANY OF THE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC. THIS DEFICIENCY IS TO BE EXPLAINED, TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, BY THE LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE UNIVERSITIES, BUT IT IS A DEFICIENCY WHICH SHOULD BE REMEDIED. THIS IS NOW GENERALLY RECOGNIZED.

IN CULTURAL TERMS, IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO TAKE ACTION AT THIS TIME WHEN IRELAND HAS BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND WHEN OLD LINKS WITH AMERICA, WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGH EMIGRATION AND CLOSE PERSONAL TIES, ARE BEING WEAKENED. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, IS WILLING TO TAKE THE NECSSARY STEPS TO ESTABLISH AMERICAN STUDIES ON A PERMANENT BASIS. ALREADY AMERICAN LITERATURE IS TAUGHT AND A LIMITED COURSE IS GIVEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY BY VISITING LECTURERS. THE PRESIDENT OF UCD HAS ALREADY INDICATED
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THAT A LECTURESHIP WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE EXISTING

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FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE COLLEGE. HOWEVER, IF AMERICAN STUDIES, IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, ARE TO BE PUT ON A SATISFACTORY AND ONGOING BASIS, THEN AN ADEQUATELY FUNDED CHAIR IN AMERICAN STUDIES WILL BE ESSENTIAL. THE FUNDS TO ENDOW SUCH A CHAIR, ON CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD ATTRACT SCHOLARS OF HIGH REPUTE, ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, UNDER THE EXISTING FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN IRELAND. A SUM OF $250,000 WOULD IT IS CONSIDERED BE SUFFICIENT TO FUND SUCH A CHAIR, GIVEN THE OTHER RESOURCES UCD WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL UPON. THE CAPITAL SUM COULD BE ADMINISTERED BY THE FUND IN A WAY WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE SCHEME TO BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME. SUITABLE RECOGNITION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE FUND IN THE TITLE OF THE CHAIR AS IS CUSTOMARY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

PROJECT 2: LIBRARY FACILITIES (A) TO SUPPORT EXISTING AMERICAN STUDIES ($25,000), (B) TO SUPPORT PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AMERICAN STUDIES ($50,000): WHILE THE LIBRARY OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, DOES CONTAIN A SMALL AND REASONABLY UP-TO-DATE COLLECTION OF BOOKS ON AMERICAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, THE COLLECTION IS BY NO MEANS ADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF AN EFFECTIVE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ON AN ENLARGED BASIS OR TO PROVIDE THE NECSSARY TOOLS FOR POST-GRADUATE WORK IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND POLITICS. A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT HOPES TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, IN EARLY SUMMER TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE LIBRARY QUESTION WITH AMERICAN SCHOLARS. IN THE LIGHT OF THE REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LECTURESHIP IN AMERICAN STUDIES, A GRANT OF $25,000 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE

OF BOOKS WOULD REPRESENT A WELCOME AND NECESSARY AID TO THE TEACHING OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN. IN THE EVENT OF FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE APPLICATION FOR THE FULL CHAIR WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE GRANT FOR LIBRARY PURPOSES COULD BE RAISED TO $50,000.

PROJECT 3: SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FACULTY MEMBERS AND POST GRADUATE STUDENTS ($58,000 PER ANNUM: IN THE LIGHT OF A RECENT AND EXTENSIVE TOUR OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES BY DR. THOMAS MURPHY, PRESIDENT OF UCD, IT IS MORE THAN EVER CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN FACULTIES IN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES SO AS TO FACILITATE POST-GRADUTE PROJECTS AND STAFF EXCHANGES
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IN THE FIELD OF AMERICAN STUDIES. THIS KIND OF EXCHANGE IS INHIBITED BY THE LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDS IN IRELAND WHICH IS ONE OF THE POORER COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE. IT IS PROPOSED THAT A PRACTICAL STEP TO MEET THE SITUATION WOULD BE TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO ENABLE IRISH FACULTY MEMBERS AND POST-GRADUTE STUDENTS TO ATTEND COURSES OR ENGAGE IN RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES. IN RELATION TO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (IN THE FIELDS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND RELATED QUESTIONS), IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR SIX

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SCHOLARSHIPS (TWO FOR FACULTY MEMBERS AND FOUR FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS). THE SCHEME COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A TEN YEAR PERIOD SUBJECT TO REVIEW. THE SUM ENVISAGED PER POST-GRADUTE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER WOULD BE $8,500 AND PER FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER $12,000. A SCHOLARSHIP WOULD BE HELD FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AND THE ENTIRE PROGRAM COULD BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND. MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN00063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740144/aaaabpnx.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SORENSON-DAWKINS LETTER OF DEC 19; S, TATE 3698
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
TAGS: SCUL, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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